



The Bible Banner



August 2021

There is a tale told of the great English actor, Macready. An eminent preacher once said to him: *"I wish you would explain to me something."*

"Well, what is it? I don't know that I can explain anything to a preacher."

"What is the difference between you and me? You are appearing before crowds night after night with fiction, and the crowds come wherever you go. I am preaching the essential and unchangeable truth, and I am not getting any crowd at all."

Macready replied: *"This is quite simple. I can tell you the difference between us. I present my fiction as though it were truth; you present your truth as though it were fiction."*

Oh, that men might preach the truth with authority and enthusiasm! *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."* John 4:23

Create something new by adding something special to an old favorite!

Pumpkin Seed Parmesan (Pictured)

½ cup pumpkin seeds, raw ½ cup sesame seeds

3 tsp garlic powder 2 tsp onion powder

1 tsp salt 1 tsp organic sugar 3 tsp lemon juice

Blend dry ingredients and then add lemon juice a little at a time until the right consistency. (It should still be somewhat crumbly.) Refrigerate in an airtight container.

Not-Parmesan Cheeze

½ cup nutritional yeast ½ cup sesame seeds

2 tsp garlic powder 1 tsp onion powder

2 tsp chicken-like seasoning 3 tsp lemon juice

Blend dry ingredients and then add lemon juice a little at a time until the right consistency. (It should still be somewhat crumbly.) Refrigerate in an airtight container.



PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate Bible Knowledge—Play "Bible Hint-a-Song"

Have persons in your group pick a Bible text for everyone to read. This text is to be a hint for what song/hymn they would like to sing. Everyone else can guess. After the hymn is guessed you may sing the song.

Hints may be easy like **Rev.19:12, 13** --*"on his head were many crowns.... and his name is called The Word of God."* for **Crown Him with Many Crowns** or harder like

Acts 24:25—*"And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."* for **Once to Every Man and Nation** (comes the moment to decide)

Quotable Quotes

"It is the work of true education to...

train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought." {Education, pg. 17}

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Editor's Note **Truth Thinker or Troublemaker?**

Not long ago, a news note contained a catchphrase that read, *"Anti-mask isn't a thing. We were here first. You're anti-face."* It really made me stop to think of how often certain truths go "out of style" and those who continue on doing things the "old-fashioned" way are actually condemned as divisive.

Anti-mask isn't a thing.
We were here first.
You're anti-face.

This began with the war in heaven recorded in Revelation 12:7-9 *"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven."*

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

It is evident that an evil deception of Satan caused this war, for in Revelation 19:11 we find God described as *"Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."* God's law—a transcript of His character-- had ever been there, for Malachi 3:6 states, *"For I am the LORD, I change not..."* It was not God who had changed His standard, but rather Satan who stirred up trouble against truth. God's way was there first. Satan was anti-God for scripture declares, *"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."* Ezekiel 28:15 Because iniquity was found in Satan, he naturally became anti-God *"For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."* John 3:20

Of this pattern we could cite many examples, *"Elijah was declared to be a troubler in Israel, Jeremiah a traitor, Paul a polluter of the temple. From that day to this, those who would be loyal to truth have been denounced as seditious, heretical, or schismatic. Multitudes who are too unbelieving to accept the sure word of prophecy will receive with unquestioning credulity an accusation against those who dare to reprove fashionable sins. This spirit will increase more and more. And the Bible plainly teaches that a time is approaching when the laws of the state will so conflict with the law of God that whosoever would obey all the divine precepts must brave reproach and punishment as an evildoer."* {GC 458.2}



But Christians who are simply adhering to and teaching God's way should not be tricked into believing that they are the ones causing trouble. Consider the words of Prophet Elijah when he was accused of being a troubler of Israel. *"And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim."* 1 Kings 18:17, 18

Elijah informed Ahab that it was Ahab and his "father's house" leaving the truth that had caused the trouble. Elijah did not seek disunion, but he recognized that true unity must always be founded on principles of truth. This has been the position of God's people in the face of apostasy throughout the ages. It was the position of the apostles, the Waldensians, the Protestant Reformers, and the remnant who have anxiously awaited Christ's soon return. *"To secure peace and unity they were ready to make any concession consistent with fidelity to God; but they felt that even peace would be too dearly purchased at the sacrifice of principle. If unity could be secured only by the compromise of truth and righteousness, then let there be difference, and even war."* {GC 45.3}

Christian, don't let the world's accusations confuse you. Like the great I AM, the principles of truth hold the precedent. When you *"ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein"* (Jer. 6:16), you are simply a truth thinker-- NOT a troublemaker.



Prophetic News Notes -- Pastors and Churches, the new Criminals?

"Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment." Isaiah 59:15



The heart-wrenching cries of this man's children should touch the heart of all but the most calloused criminals and send a wakeup call to all Christians. This man is not being jailed for drugs, or murder, but for holding a church service. *"Alberta police on Monday [June 14] arrested Pastor Tim Stephens of Fairview Baptist Church in Calgary for violating public health codes. Guidelines restrict worship gatherings to one-third building capacity, but Fairview shifted services outside after Alberta Health Services (AHS) closed their building and changed the locks. After AHS served Stephens a notice over the weekend, he posted on social media that the police were on their way to his home. Officers told Stephens they were arresting him for holding an outdoor service on June 6 that exceeded size limits and failing to enforce masking and social distancing."*

“What next? His wife in a Facebook post said Stephens refused a bail offer conditioned on following health guidelines because ‘doing so would prevent him from faithfully shepherding the flock.’ Stephens’ hearing is set for June 28, and he faces up to two years imprisonment.”¹

The arrest was apparently made following an alternate outdoor meeting of his congregation which was detected by helicopter. ² Sadly, Pastor Stevens is only one of many pastors and congregations suffering removal of religious freedom and the right of the people to peaceably assemble in Canada. Headlines state, *“Citing COVID-19, Canada cracks down on churches. One pastor is jailed while others face steep fines and possible prison time.”*³

A May 15, 2021, Newsweek article reported, “Artur Pawlowski, a Polish-Canadian pastor from Alberta, Canada who was arrested last weekend for allegedly organizing a church service that ignored COVID social distancing rules and mask mandates, warned the U.S. to watch out after what happened to him. In an interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham that aired on Friday, Pawlowski said that Canada ‘has no rights whatsoever...’



“What we have right now is some kind of a hybrid between fascism and communism medical tyranny,” he told Ingraham. ‘I spent three days in jail for my crime of opening the church in a free and democratic society,’ Pawlowski said.

“Pawlowski compared Canada to the communist states he escaped from: ‘I came to Canada only because Canada was offering me

freedom, and here we are again, a repetition of history. And I decided I’m going to stand up and fight.”⁴ And for good reason, for it has been said, *“Security without liberty is called prison.”*

A Church of God Restoration congregation in Ontario, and its Pastor Henry Hildebrandt have also been *“hit with more charges”*⁵ for having an outdoor meeting after they were told to evacuate their church building while they were locked out by police accompanied by a locksmith. Their crime? The gatherings are too large and no face masks or social distancing is followed. *“Current COVID-19 public health restrictions put in place by the provincial government cap religious gatherings at ten people. They also require face coverings be worn and physical distance maintained. Individuals convicted of violating the emergency orders face a minimum fine of \$750, while those guilty of hosting large gatherings can be fined up to \$10,000.”*⁶ It is of interest that members of the congregation say a bar is considered “essential” and allowed to stay open while the churches are told to shut down.

Before the church was locked and just before directing the congregation to file out orderly and peaceably⁶, the pastor read Daniel 3:17, 18. *“If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”*



It is inarguable from the books of Daniel and Revelation that the final battle will be over worship. For it is written, *“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...”* Rev. 14:9,10a

Although we may not agree with every doctrine these folk preach, it is evident that, underneath its “health cloak”, these shutdowns, etc., are a religious battle concerning worship. The words of man are set up against the word of God. God never quarantined/locked down, masked, or social distanced those who were not sick. Instead God directed His people *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”* Heb. 10:25 And in Matthew 24:45, again amidst the context of the last days, Jesus commended spiritual leaders who meet regularly saying *“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?”*

As I sat down to read Wylie’s History of Protestantism last night, I was startled to note how closely what I was seeing in the news paralleled what I was reading about in the 1500s. Christian, this battle is not about health. This is about the loss of religious freedom. This is a loss we cannot afford for *“where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”* 2 Cor. 3:17

1- <https://wno.org/sift/canadian-pastor-jailed-over-pandemic-violations-1623792755> 2--Screen shot—crying children https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dlv6Oydtkw&ab_channel=PastorHenryHildebrandt
3--- WORLD screenshot-- <https://wno.org/roundups/citing-covid-19-canada-cracks-down-on-churches-1617222619> 4-- Screenshot-- <https://www.newsweek.com/canadian-pastor-arrested-over-covid-rules-offers-warning-us-after-what-happened-him-1591821> 5-- <https://blackburnnews.com/london/london-news/2021/05/18/defiant-aylmer-church-charged-large-sunday-service/>
6-- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJbEI8XWak4&t=368s&ab_channel=PastorHenryHildebrandt



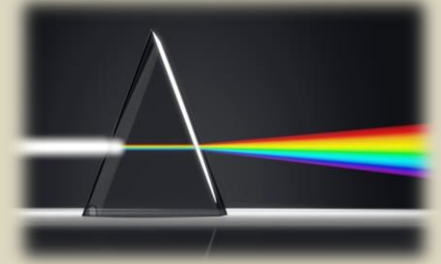
Epidemic or Full-Spectrum Health?

Florence Nightingale, the mother of modern nursing, who used statistical analysis to prove the effectiveness of things like sanitation, wrote in a letter to Mr. John Pickering. *"Everyone who knows anything of public health questions, will agree ... as to the practical unity of epidemics, ... and that exemption from all alike must be sought, not by any one thing, such as vaccination, but by inquiring into and removing the causes of the epidemic."* (Letter dated March 31st, 1871. <http://www.vaclib.org/books/archive2/opinion/opinion.htm>)

In other words, to obtain full- spectrum health, **the cause of disease must be removed.** The Bible gives us a clue of how to do this. God promises to keep us from "the diseases of the Egyptians" if we will follow His laws. Exodus 15:26 states, *"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."* Interestingly, in both Leviticus 26:16 and Deuteronomy 28:22, consumption is listed as part of the curse for not following God's law—thus it is indeed one of the diseases of the Egyptians. Webster's 1828 Dictionary brings this a little closer to home, in a description that sounds a lot like COVID -19. *"CONSUMPTION--In medicine, a wasting of flesh... But particularly, the disease called phthisis pulmonalis, pulmonic consumption, a disease seated in the lungs, attended with hectic fever, cough, etc."*

Let's take a look at God's plan for disease and how to apply His principles from a book called *Counsels on Health*. We are told, *"The only hope of better things is in the education of the people in right principles. Let physicians teach the people that restorative power is not in drugs, but in nature."* Following is the best definition of disease found anywhere.

"Disease is an effort of nature to free the system from conditions that result from a violation of the laws of health." Now comes a helpful list of what to do. *"In case of sickness, the cause should be ascertained. Unhealthful conditions should be changed, wrong habits corrected. Then nature is to be assisted in her effort to expel impurities and to re-establish right conditions in the system."* {CH 90.1} And here we find a list of God's eight health laws. *"Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness [temperance], rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power--these are the true remedies. Every person should have a knowledge of nature's remedial agencies and how to apply them."* {CH 90.2}



Truthfully, whenever I have gotten sick, I have been able to trace its cause to a violation of one of these laws of health. It is true that some violations of the laws of health are outside of our control-- breathing polluted air when in the presence of a smoker, for example. It is nevertheless still a violation of the laws of health, and sometimes we suffer because of the carelessness of others. To maintain wellness, let's take a brief look at each of the laws of health and how they each must be carried out in their full spectrum.

Pure Air—To maintain the full spectrum of pure air, one must breathe deeply of fresh outside air, free from tobacco smoke, chemical pollutants (including toxic personal care products), and wireless signals. Open your bedroom windows at night.

Sunlight—Vitamin D is known to be helpful in treating COVID-19, however, just popping a vitamin D pill does not provide the full spectrum of benefits from sunshine. *"Sunlight cannot be separated from the sun."* {RH, February 3, 1891 par. 9}

Temperance [abstemiousness]— Don't smoke. Don't drink alcohol. Don't use caffeinated beverages and foods, etc. For full-spectrum health abstain from ALL that is harmful and use moderately even that which is good.

Rest—Full-spectrum rest involves not only sleep but also time for recreation/contemplation and a weekly rest day.

Exercise – Full-spectrum exercise includes daily exercise of the entire body (such as walking) and also brain exercise (thinking). Also never underestimate the value of the right action and exercise of the will to stay well.

Proper Diet—Full-spectrum nutrition includes—carbohydrates (whole grains, veggies, and fruits), plant proteins (legumes), and healthy fats (nuts, seeds, olive oil). Also *"Many times when meat is eaten it decays in the stomach, and creates disease. Cancers, tumors, and pulmonary diseases are largely caused by meat-eating."* {PUR, October 9, 1902 par. 9} Dairy also contributes to infectious disease. Most total vegetarians can testify that their incidence of colds, flu, etc. greatly decreased when dairy was eliminated from their diet. Any additional simple and harmless herbal remedies (from garlic to oregano oil) also fall into the spectrum of this category.

The Use Of Water—The full spectrum of water includes not only drinking enough water (eliminating excess mucus), but using water for cleanliness of body and premises, and hydrotherapy as needed (contrast showers & cold mitten frictions are great immune boosters).

Trust In Divine Power – Perfect trust obeys God's directives. Faith reveals full-spectrum trust in God ALL the time—good times, bad times, every time. Nothing can lower your level of fear, anxiety, stress & distress like turning your problems over to our Burden-bearer.

With all these remedies to consider, truly, it has been said, *"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."*

To enjoy full-spectrum good health, employ the full spectrum of all eight laws of health, today!



Pursuing Truth Over Revenge

“These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:” Zechariah 8:16

The following is a true story that took place during the Revolutionary War.

During that time there was a Sabbath-keeping pastor named Peter Miller, and all through his ministry in a small town in Lancaster County, he had a neighbor who took great pleasure in mocking and ridiculing Miller and his followers. In fact, it is said, on one occasion he struck Miller in the face, and on another occasion he spit in his face. Yet, Miller endured it all with Christian fortitude.

As it happens, during the war, that neighbor fell on hard times and was both accused and convicted of treason. And while of course, he was an unpleasant person, Miller was convinced that he was not in fact, a traitor. So, after the death sentence was passed, Peter Miller arose early in the morning, took his cane and set out on foot, through the snow, to visit General Washington at Valley Forge, to intercede for the life of Witman.

When Miller approached the great general, Washington told him he was sorry but there was nothing he could do to save his friend. "My friend!" exclaimed Miller. "I have not a worse enemy living than that man." "What!" rejoined Washington.

"You have walked sixty miles to save the life of your enemy? That, in my judgment, puts the matter in a different light. I will grant you his pardon."

The pardon was written, signed by General Washington and handed to Miller, who at once set out for West Chester, fifteen miles distant, where the execution was to take place on the afternoon of the same day.

He arrived just as Witman was being carried to the scaffold, who, seeing Miller in the crowd, remarked: "There is old Peter Miller. He has walked all the way from Ephrata to have his revenge gratified to-day seeing me hung."



These words were scarcely spoken, when Miller waved the pardon and commanded them to halt. We will not picture the scene that followed. It is said they embraced each other. They walked home to Ephrata together and remained firm friends.



Study to Show Thyself Approved—The Importance of Truth

TRUTH SHOULD BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE CHRISTIAN because we are sanctified through truth and eternally lost without it—John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth.... 2 Thess. 2:13 ...God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: John 17:19 ...they also might be sanctified through the truth. 2 Thess. 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The service of God is to be in sincerity and truth with all our hearts—Joshua 24:14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth... 1 Samuel 12:24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart...

When we “walk with God,” we walk in truth. Psalm 25:10 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. Psalm 26:3 For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth. Psalm 86:11 Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

God’s truth frees and protects us John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Psalm 91:4 ...His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Eph. 6:13,14 Take unto you the whole armour of God... having your loins girt about with truth...

We will be judged with mercy and truth Psalm 96:13 Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth. Isaiah 16:5 And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment... Psalm 15:1, 2 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

WHAT IS TRUTH? God is truth. Truth is just and right and without iniquity and lies—Deuteronomy 32:3, 4 Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. 1 John 2:21 ... no lie is of the truth.

Jesus is the truth John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

God's law is truth—Psalm 119:142 ... thy law is the truth. Psalm 119:151 ...O LORD... all thy commandments are truth.

The Scriptures are truth Daniel 10:21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth... John 17:17 Thy word is truth.

Fables and commandments of men turn from the truth 2 Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. Titus 1:14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

God leads us into truth John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:... and he will shew you things to come. Psalm 25:5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. Psalm 43:3 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

WHAT ARE WE DIRECTED TO DO WITH TRUTH? Daniel 9:13 As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Isaiah 38:19 The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

Kids' Corner

God's Amazing Creatures

Can you match the pictures in the magnifying glass to a larger picture of the same animal or plant?

The Bible says,
“**And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good...**”
Genesis 1:31

The Bible also says,
“**He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much...**”
Luke 16:10

“Every drop of rain or flake of snow, every spear of grass, every leaf and flower and shrub, testifies of [tells us about] God.

These little things, so common around us, teach the lesson that **nothing is beneath the notice of the infinite God, nothing is too small for his attention.**” {HL 294.1}

